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OCI #1462/73

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
25 November 1973

INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

THE SITUATION IN GREECE

(As of 0730 EST)

1. Elements of the Greek Army, apparently under the guiding hand of Brig. Gen. Dimitrios Ioannidis, chief of military police, ousted junta leader and President George Papadopoulos last night in an apparent bloodless coup. Lt. General Phaidon Gizikis, who was the commander of the First Army and close to Ioannidis, was sworn in as President. There were no reports of violence or resistance to the takeover as of 0730 EST this morning. Papadopoulos' status is unknown.

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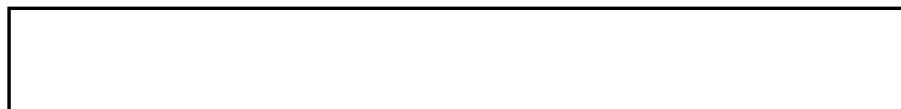
3. An unsigned proclamation issued in the "name of the armed forces" said that the country had gone through two referendums and was still without a constitution. It emphasized that the aim of the April 1967 coup was to create the prerequisites for a return to a healthy parliamentary life. Instead of cleansing the public life, the country again was being led to the same situation and the armed forces were being diverted from their national mission and used in a staged election which would humiliate the nation.

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6. Full curfew has been established in Athens and Salonika. Tanks and APCs were patrolling in downtown Athens and the government radio was broadcasting folk and martial music and slogans to reassure the populace that their "revolution" would be fulfilled.

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